



Maryland Developmental Disabilities Council

CREATING CHANGE • IMPROVING LIVES

House Ways & Means Committee

HB 136: Education – Public and Nonpublic Schools – Seizure Action Plans (Brynleigh Act)

January 20, 2022

Position: Support

The Maryland Developmental Disabilities Council (DD Council) is an independent, public policy organization that creates changes to make it possible for people with developmental disabilities to live the lives they want with the support they need. The DD Council is led by people with developmental disabilities and their families. **From that perspective, the DD Council supports HB 136 which requires schools to make action plans and train staff to ensure a safe and enriching environment for students with seizure disorders.**

WHY is this legislation important?

- There are 7,900 children living with epilepsy in Maryland.¹ That is 913 students per school nurse.²
- Ensuring that all school personnel who work directly with students can recognize and respond appropriately and efficiently to a student experiencing a seizure.
- It will help to create a safer environment for every student in Maryland's public schools.

WHAT does this legislation do?

Brings awareness to all members of the educational community who work directly with students so that students living with epilepsy or a seizure disorder can feel safe in school and reach their full potential by requiring:

- Two school employees to be trained in recognizing the signs and symptoms of a seizure, administering first aid, and administering seizure medication.
- Biennial training to school personnel with direct contact and supervision of students on recognizing the signs and symptoms of a seizure.
- Parents of a student diagnosed with a seizure disorder to collaborate with school personnel to create a seizure action plan.

The proactive approach that HB 136 provides is essential so that students who may experience seizures maintain their independence and meaningfully participate in all aspects of school life.

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¹ <https://www.cdc.gov/epilepsy/data/index.html>

² <https://www.cdc.gov/healthyschools/npao/epilepsy.htm>